

June 17, 2005

Dear Friend:

Since the hasty passage of the Patriot Act in October of 2001, I have continuously fought to rein in parts of the Act that I believe threaten our constitutional rights.

This past week, we scored a major victory on that front. Along with a bipartisan group of colleagues, I offered the Freedom to Read Amendment, which prohibits the FBI from using a Patriot Act Section 215 order to access library circulation records, library patron lists, book sales records, or book customer lists. It passed the House by a vote of 238-187.

This commonsense amendment restores the privacy and First Amendment rights of library and bookstore patrons which were in place before the USA Patriot Act. The amendment also ensures that in restoring these freedoms, terrorists will not be able to use library computers to communicate with one another without the threat of being caught. The passage of this amendment ensures both safety and freedom, and helps further prove that these values need not be mutually exclusive.

Widespread concern about the Patriot Act has become increasingly evident since its passage. Over 374 cities, towns, and counties in 43 states have passed resolutions expressing concern about the Patriot Act or an extension of it. In New Mexico alone, ten cities and four counties have passed resolutions.

Passage of this amendment shows the deep concern that members of both parties have about the Patriot Act. I am pleased that Democrats and Republicans could come together to support this overdue change. Unfortunately, the Bush Administration has threatened to veto the legislation in which this amendment was adopted. I will continue, however, to see that this provision remains in the bill, and that it is maintained when Congress considers reauthorization of the Patriot Act later this year.

For more information on this legislation please [click here](#).

Very truly yours,

Tom Udall  
Member of Congress